

### CLAIMS

1. A clipping device intended for absorbing current peaks from 1 to 10 amperes, formed of a vertical NPN transistor, having an unconnected base, an emitter connected to a terminal on which positive voltage peaks are likely to appear, and a grounded collector, the transistor parameters being set so that it exhibits a negative dynamic resistance.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the base resistance is smaller than 1500 ohms/square.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the relative arrangement of the emitter and of the base is such that the breakdown occurs in volume.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein the emitter extends beyond the base and the emitter periphery is surrounded with a P-type region more lightly doped than the base.

5. The clipping device of claim 3, wherein the base extends beyond the emitter, the emitter periphery being formed of a lightly-doped N-type region.